

Message Text

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12

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ETRN, RP

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - US PROPOSAL FOR RENEWED NEGOTIATIONS

REF: STATE 043181

1. WHILE WE UNDERSTAND PHIL CAB HAS BEEN STUDYING U. S. PROPOSAL, EXEC SECY MELCHOR STATES THAT GOP NOT LIKELY PROVIDE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE UNTIL PROGRESS MADE TOWARD INTEGRATION AND REORGANIZATION OF PHIL CIVIL AVIATION INDUSTRY. GOP SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED MARCH 10 PRESIDENTIAL DECISION TO CONSOLIDATE THREE PHILIPPINE CARRIERS INTO SINGLE AIRLINE, AND CABINET LEVEL MEETING WITH AIRLINE EXECUTIVES SCHEDULED MARCH 14 TO WORK OUT DETAILED ARRANGEMENTS. ACCORDING GOP AND AVIATION INDUSTRY SOURCES, DIFFICULT FINANCIAL, LEGAL AND OTHER QUESTIONS REMAIN UNRESOLVED. (DETAILS BEING REPORTED SEPTTEL.)

2. WE MADE CLEAR TO MELCHOR OUR CONCERN AT DELAY IN GOP RESPONSE, IN PART BECAUSE OF POSSIBILITY U. S. PROPOSAL MIGHT REACH U. S. CARRIERS BEFORE THEY CAN BE GIVEN PROPER BRIEFING BY USG IN LIGHT OF GOP RESPONSE. MELCHOR RECOGNIZED PROBLEM BUT REITERATED VIEW THAT FUTURE ORGANIZATION OF PHILIPPINE AVIATION INDUSTRY MUST FIRST BE RESOLVED. IN INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS, U. S. AIRLINE REP AGREED THAT GOP WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FORMULATE POSITION RE US- RP CIVAIR NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL LOCAL AIRLINE ISSUE SETTLED AND PREDICTED AT LEAST THREE

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MONTHS WOULD BE REQUIRED, PROBABLY MORE.

3. COMMENT. WE WILL CONTINUE PRESS GOP TO MAKE RESPONSE WHICH WOULD ENABLE FURTHER PROGRESS TOWARD CIVAIR TALKS. WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT MARCOS AND TOP AIDES HAVE NOT YET BEEN ABLE GIVE PROPOSAL FULL ATTENTION AND HOPE THAT CONTINUED EFFORT ON OUR PART WILL ELICIT RESPONSE, PERHAPS AS SOON AS MAIN LINES OF FUTURE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CARRIER OPERATIONS ARE WORKED OUT. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE TACTICALLY USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD GIVE US INFORMAL INDICATION OF DATES DURING NEXT THREE TO SIX MONTHS U. S. TEAM WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR NEGOTIATIONS WITH GOP.
BYROADE

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